

Back to School *in the 1800s*

*An Overview of Pre-Civil War Schools and
Academies and the Literary Fund Schools*

Leesburg
FEMALE SEMINARY.
 REV. H. R. SMITH, PRINCIPAL.

Teachers having been secured for the different Departments, the exercises of the SCHOOL will be resumed on MONDAY, the 4th of SEPTEMBER. Arrangements have been made for the reception of a number of Boarders in several families, where strict attention will be paid to their manners and deportment. Special attention will be given by the Principal to the department of Mathematics, and to English Parsing and Composition. Pupils should be entered at commencement of Session when classes are formed.

TERMS.

per Session of 5 Months, payable half in advance	
Board and Washing,	\$80 00
Tuition in English,	20 00
" in English one Language, Ancient	
or Modern,	25 00
English with two Languages,	30 00
Music, with use of Piano,	22 00
Drawing or Painting,	10 00

Leesburg, July 26, 1865—2m

Pre-Civil War Education

- *Private tutors at home*
- *Private schools and academies*
 - *Leesburg Academy*
 - *Gibson's Female School*
 - *Leesburg Female Seminary*
 - *Waterford School*
 - *Springdale*
 - *Hillsborough Academy*
 - *Margaret Mercer's School*
 - *Rev. Benjamin Bridges School*
- *Plantation schools*

Article of Agreement

Made and concluded on this 7th Day of January 1789. Between Matt^o Kennedy of Loudoun County, of the one part, and on the Subscribers of the afore said County of the other part, Witneseth, that whereas he the said Matt^o Kennedy of the said County proposes teaching spelling, Reading, English, Grammar, writing and Arithmetick for twelve months from the above Date, at the Schoolhouse on Colonel Peyton's Land, and he the said Matt^o Kennedy doth hereby oblige himself to give due attendance, and if he leave any time except Sundays, and holy days, as are common to do, to make it up as he shall see fit in proportion at the Expiration of the year; for which Service we the afore said Subscribers of the afore said County, do hereby bind ourselves our Joint Heirs Ex^{rs} and Adm^{rs} jointly by these presents, to pay or cause to be paid unto the said Matt^o Kennedy of the afore said County, his Heirs or assigns, the just and full Sum of Thirty Shillings Current Money of Virginia p^r Year p^r Scholar; one half the Money to be paid at the Expiration of six months from the above Date and the Balance at the Expiration of the year, untill our Hands as well as the Subscribers of the afore said County, as & the said Matt^o Kennedy the Date above written

Francis Peyton	1	Matt ^o Kennedy	1
Samuel Henderson	1	Shaddan M ^o Farley	2
David Ales	1	Cor ^o Reynolds	1
John Henderson	1	William M^o Farley	1
John Beveridge	3	John Parry	1/4
Daniel John	1	John M ^o Farley	1
Henry M ^o Farley	1/4	Thim ^o Gibson	3
Arthur Rogers	1/4	Mark F ^o Fardman and Spalding	2
John Wood	1		
John Swart	1		
Cor ^o Thomas Jun	1/4		
Benjamin Rowles	1/4		
Rawleigh Rogers	1		
John Dornis	1/4		
Rich ^o Crispin	2		
James Hoke	1		

Agreement with teacher, Matthew Kennedy

7 January 1789

- Spelling, Reading, English, Grammar, Writing, and Arithmetic
- At the schoolhouse on Colonel Peyton's land
- Thirty shillings per scholar

Wickes'
FEMALE ACADEMY,
LEESBURG, VA.

MR. AND MRS. WICKES respectfully give notice, that this institution is now in operation, and that they are prepared to receive Boarding and Day Scholars upon very moderate terms.—Having taught, with approbation, in Baltimore for six years past, and acquired much experience by exclusive devotion to the business of instruction, they flatter themselves, that young Ladies may complete an education with them, in almost all the useful and ornamental branches which are taught in the best schools.

Course of Studies.—Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, English Grammar, (with particular attention to Parsing exercises,) Geography, (with the use of Maps and Globes, and the construction of Maps,) Astronomy, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Logic, History, Mythology, and English Composition.

Ornamental.—Theorem Painting on velvet, Poonah Painting on paper, Shell-work, Wax-work, (with mould making,) Ebony-work, (a beautiful painting on wood, suitable for boxes, stands, &c.) Alum and Filagree-work, Music on the Piano Forte, and various other branches.

Needle work.—Marking, Sampler, Muslin, Lace-work, Worsted-work, (for foot stools, hearth rugs, &c.) and Embroidery.

PRICES.

Spelling, Reading, and Writing, per q^r. \$5 00
Spelling, Reading, and Writing, with Arithmetic, 4 00

Book-keeping, Grammar, & Geography, 5 00
Astronomy, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Logic, History, Mythology, and English Composition, 6 00

[To this class will be delivered familiar lectures intended to illustrate their different recitations.]

Painting on velvet, Poonah Painting, Ebony-work, Wax-work, Alum and Filagree-work, Shell-work, Lace-work, Worsted-work, and Embroidery, 12 00

[These branches are taught without respect to time, or separately, if required—and paid half in advance.]

Muslin.—For the pupils of the school, per quarter, or 50 lessons, 5 00

" For those who are only Muslin scholars, 8 00

BOARDING.

For Boarding and Washing per year, paid quarterly, in advance, \$100 00
If the scholar find her own bed, &c. 30 00

P. S. The Latin, Greek, and French Languages will be taught, should sufficient patronage be extended to the school.

Permission has been given to refer to the following gentlemen as to qualification, character, &c. viz.

REV. JOHN DAVIS, Alexandria, D. C.
" CHAS. A. DAVIS, Winchester, Va.
" JOB GUEST, Middleburg, Va.
" CHRIST. FRYE, Leesburg, Va.
" SAM'L CLARKE, "
" JOHN G. WATT, "
" THOMAS BIRKEY, "
CAPT. JOHN ROSE, "
R. H. HENDERSON, ESQ. "
JAMES RUST, ESQ. "
JACOB HOFFMAN, ESQ. "
GEORGE RICHARDS, ESQ. "
DR. JOHN H. MCCABE, "
JOHN GRAY, ESQ. "
SAMUEL M. BOSS, ESQ. "
DR. HENRY CLAGETT, "
PRESLEY CORDELL, ESQ. "
COL. S. M. EDWARDS, "
R. L. ARMISTEAD, ESQ. Upperville, Va.
REV. J. M. HANSON, Baltimore.
Nov. 6, 1830.—44 tf

Wickes' Female Academy in Leesburg

November 1830 advertisement in the *Genius of Liberty*

- Boarding and day scholars

- Course of Studies

- Ornamentals

- Needle Work

- Music on the Piano Forte

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PRICES.

Spelling, Reading, and Writing, per q^r. \$5 00
Spelling, Reading, and Writing, with Arithmetic, 4 00

Book-keeping, Grammar, & Geography, 5 00
Astronomy, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Logic, History, Mythology, and English Composition, 6 00

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REV. J. M. HANSON, Baltimore.
Nov. 6, 1830.—44 tf

Course of Studies

- Spelling, reading and writing
- Arithmetic and bookkeeping
- English grammar (parsing exercises) and composition
- Geography w / use of maps and globes, and astronomy
- Natural and moral philosophy
- Rhetoric, logic, history, mythology

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REV. J. M. HANSON, Baltimore.

Nov. 6, 1830.—44 tf

Ornamental

- Theorem Painting on velvet

- Poonah Painting on paper

- Shell work and wax work

- Ebony-work (a beautiful painting on wood, suitable for boxes, stands &c.)

- Filagree-work

*Ornamental Classes -
Theorem Painting on velvet*



From Colonial Williamsburg's collection

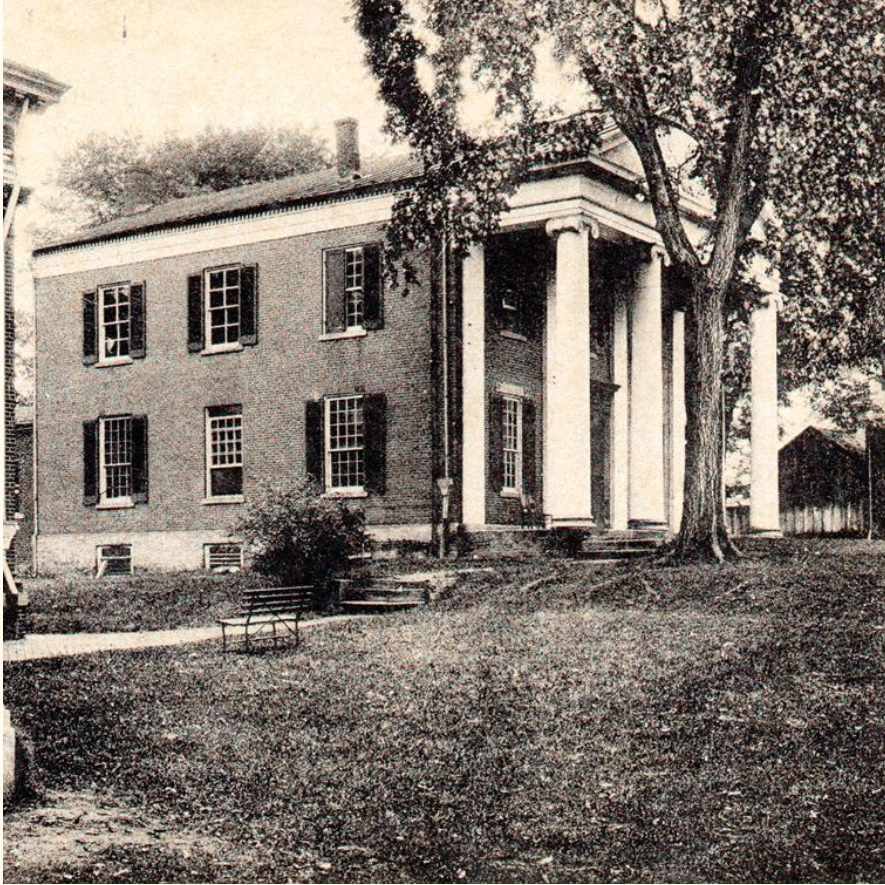
Needle Work-

Samplers and Embroidery



From Colonial Williamsburg's collection

The Leesburg Academy



Clerk's office ca. 1920s

- *Opened in 1799*
- *Brick building constructed next to the courthouse about 1843*
- *Longest operating school in the county during the 1800s*
- *Closed in the early 1870s*
- *Sold to the county in 1873 for \$7,500*

Leesburg Academy.

ON MONDAY, the 6th instant,
THE LEESBURG ACADEMY

WAS OPENED,

UNDER the direction of the Rev.
ROBERT H. CHAPMAN, D. D.
successor of the Rev. John Mines.

The board of Trustees take occasion to announce that the well finished education, experience, and assiduity of Dr. Chapman, authorize them to recommand him to the public. He has been engaged for nearly twenty years in the instruction of youth, and presided over the university of North Carolina during a considerable part of that time. The Latin, Greek, French, and English languages, and the various branches of science included in a liberal education, will be taught in this seminary; and youth may be prepared for entering any of the colleges in the union, or they can be conducted through a regular collegiate course, as parents or guardians may wish. The morals and habits of students will be most carefully attended to.

Accommodations may be had on very reasonable terms for those who come from a distance.

With these prospects, the trustees ardently hope that this seminary will receive an extensive share of public favour. While they will be ever zealous in the discharge of their duties, they rely on the taste and good judgment of the community, to render this institution the seat of learning and the nursery of genius.

Signed by order of the Board,

W. C. SELDEN, Pres't.

L. P. W. BALCH, Sec'y.

May 7, 1822.—17 tf.

The Leesburg Academy

June 1822 Genius of Liberty

- *Latin, Greek, French, and English*
- *Various branches of science*
- *Boarding for boys who "come from a distance"*

The Literary Fund for Educating Poor Children

- *Optional by county*
- *Established a board of commissioners in each county*
- *One commissioner served as president and another as treasurer*
- *Commissioners represented a geographic area of the county*
- *Responsible for appropriating and accounting for funds, tracking the progress of children, and providing an annual report*
- *Educated girls and boys*
- *Female and male teachers*

The Literary Fund Commissioners in 1819

Chas. Lewis	William Wilkinson	} School Commissioners.
Col. W. Elzer		
Johnson Cleveland	Rev. John Mines	
Burr Powell		
Edmond Bailey		
Dr E. B. Grady		
Thos. French		
John White		
Major Braden		
Henry Marlow		
Capt. A. Saunders		
Lewis B. W. Balch		
Capt. J. Rose		

The Literary Fund Commissioners' Report 1820

Names of scholars	Age	Names of Parents or Guardians	Commissions by whom entered	Time of entrance	Price of tuition	Days absent	Conduct	Progress
James McDonald	12 or 13	Lat. McDonald	W. J. Mines	1 st March	3.50	15	Pretty good	Wear able
Robert Newton	12 or 14	Widow Newton	do do	do	2.50	8 or 10	do do	very tolerable
George Darrell	9 or 10	Wm. Darrell	do do	do	3.50	1 or 2	do do	tolerable
Ann Jones	10 or 12	Widow Jones	do do	do	3.50	4 weeks	do do	very tolerable
Henry Langley	10 or 12	Henry Langley	do do	do	3.50	2 do	very good	very good

Amount of tuition. \$16.50
 Stationary. 1.54 1/2
 Sum due until 1st Jan. 1820 \$18.04 1/2

I. J. W. Balch Treasurer of the board of Commissioners for the education of Poor Children Pay J. Saunders Eighteen dollars four & a half cents
 The amount of tuition and stationary as per account above rendered
 John Mines Commissioner for Loudon County

The Literary Fund Commissioners' Report 1820

James M'Donagh lost 8 or 10 days by the Meazles the remainder kept at home by his Father

Robert Newton quit the last part of April

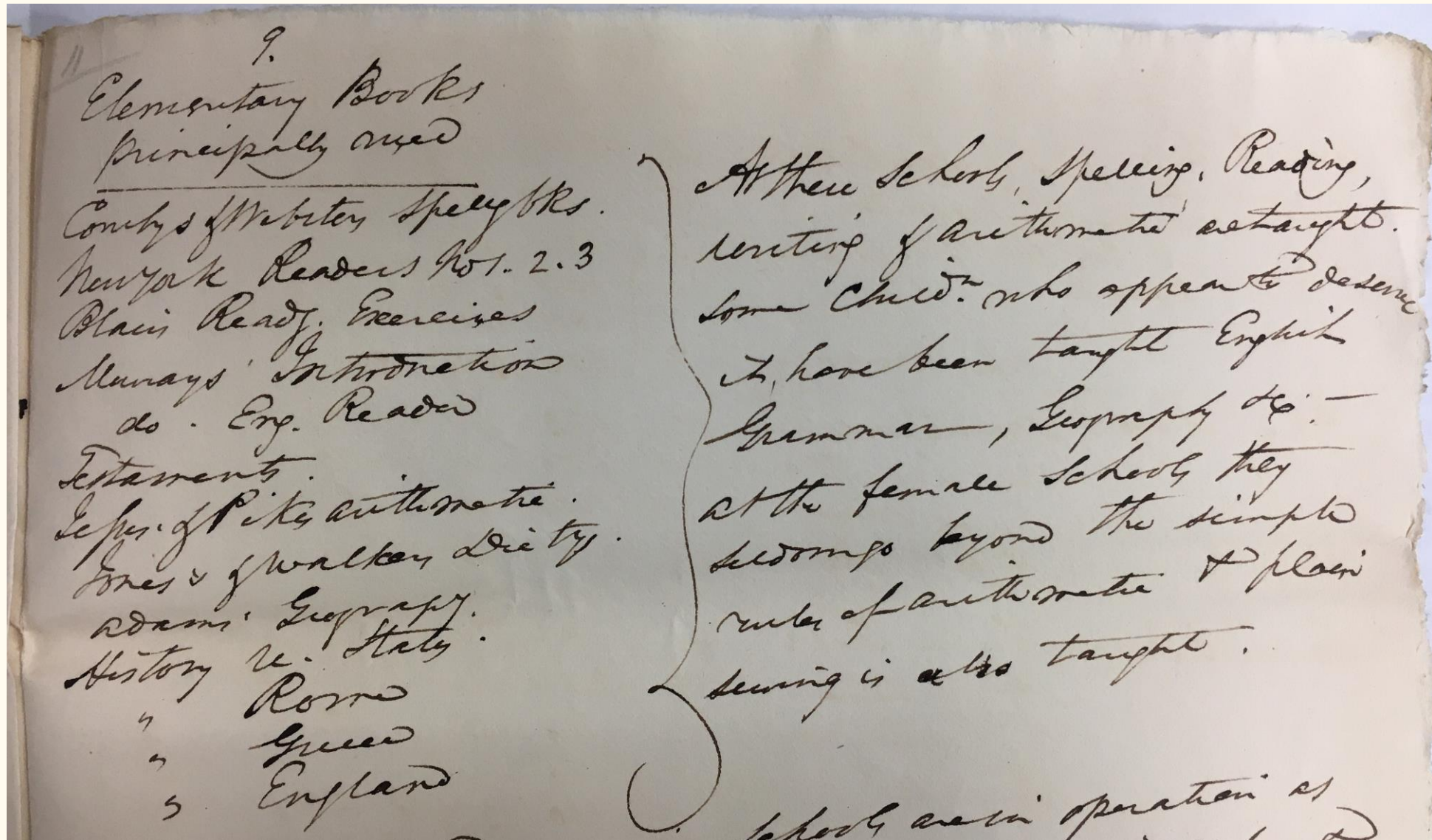
George Davrell who succeeded his brother Thomas who succeeded his sister Ann Jones lost her time partly by the Meazles & attending to her Mother who had them very bad

Henry Langley lost about 1 week with the Meazles the remainder kept by his parents

D. P. P. P.

Mr Mines

List of Elementary Books 1829-1830 School Year



The Challenges Faced by the Literary Fund Children

- *Lacked proper clothing during the winter months*
- *Kept home by sick parents to nurse them*
- *Needed for the harvest - "the scholars are taken home by their parents to labor in their fields or hired out to others"*
- *Diseases - "the parents being so poor as to be unable to procure medical aid & other means of restoration which are within the reach of the wealthy & even middle classes of society"*

Number of Schools and Students

Year	# of schools	# attended by poor children	# poor children entitled to the benefit	# poor children served
1822	46	30	524	
1823	66	54	500	241
1829	80		800-1,000	354
1835	60-70		800-900	475
1840	70		800	602 (336 boys & 266 girls)
1845	60-70	59	800	460 (234 boys & 226 girls)
1850				475
1856				1,078
1859				1,144

Final Literary Fund Records - 1861
Resignation of Andrew Seitz of Lovettsville

To the County Court of Loudoun County

Intending to remove, in a short time, from the County
of Loudoun, I hereby resign my Office of School Commissioner in
said County - Given under my hand & seal this 12th March 1861

Andrew Seitz Esq

Sources

- Genius of Liberty newspapers at Virginia Chronicle, Library of Virginia
<https://virginiachronicle.com/>
- Loudoun County Historic Records,
Miscellaneous Papers: Schools 1757-1950 , Box 1
- *History of Secondary Education in Loudoun County, Virginia*. Philip van Uytendaele di Zerega. 1948.

